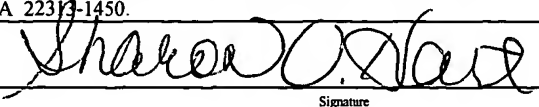


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Atty. Dkt. No.: 2000.070800/TT4352

**Prior Application Serial No.:
09/863,598**

**Prior Application Examiner:
S. Nguyen**

Classification Designation:

Prior Group Art Unit: 2877

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows: